

# • COLORADO RIVER • AQUEDUCT NEWS

THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT



OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

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No. 10

## Aqueduct Supports District Cities In National Defense Production

So far as Southern California is concerned, the Colorado River Aqueduct has a direct and vital bearing upon the extensive and ever expanding program of national defense production.

There are few sections of the United States engaged on a larger scale than Southern California in the production of articles and machines for national defense. This tremendous program of industrial production has resulted in an amazing growth in population in a number of Southern California communities. In the placement of such vital defense production plants as those that are engaged in aircraft and naval building, it was essential for the Federal Government and the manufacturers to know

that the areas in which the plants were to be located, possessed, or had available, adequate supplies of domestic and industrial water. When it came time to consider the placement of such plants in the Los Angeles metropolitan area, the vital question of water supply already had been answered through the building of the Colorado River Aqueduct. Even in those communities which are not as yet included within the boundaries of The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, it could be argued that a dependable and ample supply of domestic water physically was available, and could be obtained by annexation to the District. The actual availability of large and dependable domestic water supplies

for many Southern California cities served as one of the compelling arguments in favor of establishing large defense plants in this territory.

Among the largest aircraft plants in the United States are those located in Burbank, Santa Monica, Long Beach and Los Angeles, and in the immediate environs of these cities. It is significant to note that these cities are in the Metropolitan Water District, and thereby have available ample and dependable domestic water supplies to meet the needs of a rapidly expanding population, and industrial requirements. Had the people of the Metropolitan Water District delayed the construction of the aqueduct for ten or fifteen years, this vital supply of additional water would not have been available at this time.

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A recent view of Lake Mathews looking northward toward the mountains. A portion of the dike is visible at center left.



• COLORADO RIVER •  
**AQUEDUCT NEWS**  
 THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

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 LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

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## National Defense

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Construction of such a huge project as the aqueduct is one which requires from eight to ten years, under ideal conditions. Therefore, even though it had developed that Colorado River water was not required within the next ten years, it would be necessary at this time to set construction work under way. To contemplate the construction of the Colorado River Aqueduct in these days, while the entire nation is straining every effort toward national defense, is to conceive of a project well nigh impossible of completion. In the midst of national defense efforts, it would be next to impossible to obtain either the material or the workmen. Even though material and workmen were available, the cost of these two basic factors would be enormously greater than were the costs involved between 1932 and 1941. It has been conservatively estimated that the aqueduct, were its construction to be set under way at this time, would cost from \$75,000,000 to \$100,000,000 more than has been its actual cost. This is a tremendous saving which shall forever flow to the benefit of the taxpayers and water users of the south coast areas.

During the past three winters, Southern California has enjoyed above-normal rainfall; however, the record of the past 80 years clearly reveals that we may expect a series of sub-normal rainfall years as well as occasional series of above-normal years. Should this region enter a series of sub-normal rainfall years, the cities of Southern California soon would be confronted with disastrous local water shortages. Capitalists and industrialists contemplating the investment of millions of dollars in this region are well aware of these conditions, and make their investments accordingly. With Colorado River Aqueduct water now actually flowing through the distribution mains of the Metropolitan Water District, the possibility of a disastrous drought has been forever eliminated.



Purchasing Agent E. W. Putnam examining specimens of cable used in aqueduct tunnel construction work and now being salvaged for service in national defense production plants.

## Increasing Demand For Salvage Wares

Even in the disposal of its vast quantities of salvage material and machinery, the Colorado River Aqueduct maintains its long established rating as a well timed project.

Recently it develops that in its sales of equipment used in aqueduct construction, the project is timed to supply

the needs of a multitude of industries and construction jobs which are finding it increasingly difficult to buy heavy machinery and other materials in the face of an ever expanding defense program.

Witness the business done by the District's salvage yard at the old Banning Field Headquarters during a three months' period. In a report made by Purchasing Agent E. W. Putnam, it is revealed that during July, August and

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## - DIRECTORY -

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Maintenance Engineer, Aqueduct and Transmission Lines.....	Robt. N. Allen
Softening Plant Engineer.....	W. W. Aultman



# ● MONTHLY REPORT ●

(EDITOR'S NOTE: The following is a brief summary of some of the activities of the District as set forth in the monthly report of General Manager Julian Hinds, filed with the Board of Directors in October covering work done in September.

## Construction

**Distribution System**—All present repairs to the Azusa conduit at Morris Reservoir were completed by District forces. There remain some repairs to some tunnels and to the Berry Flat wood-stave siphon. Installation and testing of electrical and chlorination control equipment continued at Orange County and Palos Verdes chlorination stations. United Concrete Pipe Corporation completed all work on the waste water disposal line. J. C. Blystone continued work on the chlorination station at Orange County Reservoir and operator's cottage at Morris Dam.

**Survey**—Preliminary location of the Orange County feeder extension from Santa Ana southerly to a terminus at the Coast Highway was carried on by a survey party during the month.

**Parker Power Plant**—Substructure concreting except for incasement of the turbines was completed, and walls of the superstructure are being placed. Most of the machinery for the three units has been received.

## Operation and Maintenance

**General**—Work in connection with the sale of District surplus Boulder power for the production of magnesium at a plant to be constructed near Boulder Dam, was carried on.

**Design**—Details and estimates were prepared of alternative plans for more rapid operation of the sixteen radial gates at main aqueduct wasteways. Studies were made of methods of using canal storage to facilitate pumping at Hayfield, and of auxiliary sludge disposal pipes for sand traps.

**Parker Dam**—The water surface at Lake Havasu varied between elevation 437.8 and 439.3. A small flash flood increased the flow of the Bill Williams River into the lake. Repairs to the spillway gates were continued by the Reclamation Bureau crew.

**Main Aqueduct**—Maintenance crews continued repairs to the patrol roads damaged by the storms during August. Routine patrolling of the main aqueduct and of the transmission and telephone lines was performed.

**Pumping Plants**—During the month, all plants operated at partial capacity, supplying water to Lake Mathews. In addition there was routine maintenance of plants and access roads.

**Distribution System**—Storage in Lake

Mathews was 88,709 acre feet as compared to 85,643 acre feet on August 31. A United States Army training plane from March Field crashed near the east end of the dike on September 9 and the two flyers escaped uninjured. Sections of the lake were treated with copper sulphate. Regular inspections of reservoirs, structures, valves and feeders were made. The Long Beach lateral was chlorinated, flushed out and made ready for service September 12. Water samples were taken daily and analyzed at the softening plant during the month.

**Hydrographic**—Aid was given in flood control studies for the Colorado River below Boulder Dam and meetings of the Colorado River Board of California were attended. Surface elevation in Lake Mead is at a point where storage for aqueduct diversions is insured for an indefinitely long period. Water levels were measured in the San Jacinto area and water production of District cities for 1941-1942 was compiled.

**Employment**—During September, two unclassified and eleven classified positions were filled. Twelve changes of status, 10 terminations and 3 employment contracts were recorded as well as 86 persons interviewed. The net turnover for all positions in August, 1941, was 3.3 per cent compared with 2.72 per cent for the same month in 1940. The total number of employees on District operation at the close of the month was 248.

**Miscellaneous Activities**—A revised Colorado River Aqueduct map folder and one giving technical and general information concerning the water softening and filtration plant were made available to the public.

**Right-of-Way**—Citrus groves and ranches were inspected, spraying for red scale and the third irrigation of the season were completed at the citrus groves. Four transactions were negotiated during the month.

**Purchasing and Salvage**—Total expenditures during the month approximated \$16,236.00, covering 246 purchase orders. Nineteen carloads of salt out of 23 carload forwardings were recorded. Cash sales were brisk during September amounting to \$24,921.14. Total salvage disbursements to date amount to \$1,662,487.73, while the appraised value of stock on hand is \$533,303.34. The cost of sales for the first quarter of the present fiscal year was 5.2 per cent.

## Salvage

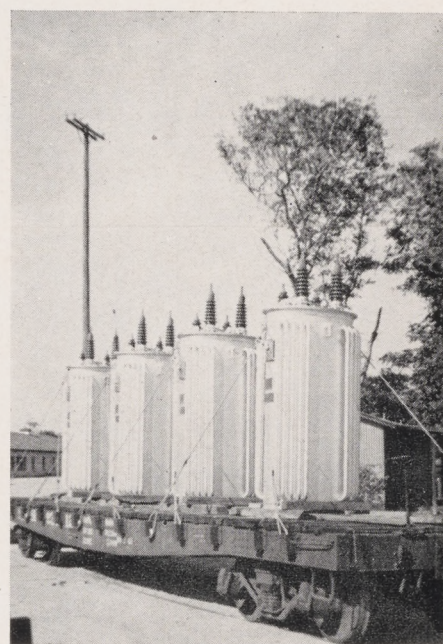
(Continued from Page 2.)

September, salvage sales totaled approximately \$58,000.

Salvaged goods sold by the District included transformers sold to the construction contractors for the new magnesium plant at Las Vegas, Nevada, a shipbuilding plant at Wilmington, a public utility company for power line extensions in Arizona, and to the U. S. Reclamation Bureau for the Flathead project in Montana. Also included are thousands of pounds of heavy electric cable sold to a shipbuilding plant at the Los Angeles harbor, an airport in Uvalde, Texas, a mining company in Park City, Utah, and the United States Engineers for the Salinas River project in California.

In addition to the transformers and cable there were many other classes of equipment sold by the District from its salvage shelves—equipment now becoming more and more difficult to obtain in the open market. These articles included, for example, pumps, power shovels, switches, trucks, automobiles, motors and generators, flat cars and many kinds of construction equipment and tools.

Remaining in the District's salvage stock piles and available for sale are a great variety of construction materials and equipment including electric motors, transformers, pumps, wire and cable.



Four of the 333 K.V.A. transformers recently sold from the District's Salvage Yard for use in the building of a new magnesium production plant near Boulder Dam.



# NEWS FROM FIELD AND OFFICE



On the twelfth floor of the District's Los Angeles headquarters office, Miss Margaret Swank takes care of the stenographic and clerical work for the Board of Directors. She's Secretary to Executive Secretary A. L. Gram.

Marjorie Howell, who has been engaged in work with the District organization since May, 1933, has now become engaged to be married. On November 23, it is learned, she is to become Mrs. Fred C. Sigle. The bridegroom-to-be is a motion picture camera technician on the staff of the Technicolor studios. From 1933 to August, 1941, Mrs. Howell performed stenographic and clerical duties in the Purchasing Division. When the District became an operating organization on August 1, she transferred to the Softening and Filtration Plant as a senior stenographer in the office of Softening Plant Engineer Aultman. She is resigning from this position November 1 to devote her attention to the responsibilities of home management on a full time basis.

\* \* \*

The stenographic vacancy created through the resignation of Mrs. Howell is to be filled by Blanche W. MacDonald who comes back to the District after an absence of about three years. Mrs. MacDonald first entered the service of the M.W.D. in September, 1931, as a typist. In January, 1933, she was transferred to the Banning Field Headquarters where she was engaged in stenographic and clerical duties until 1938.

Aqueduct Temperatures		
Sept. 16, 1941, to Oct. 15, 1941		
	Max.	Min.
Gene Pumping Plant.....	105°	55°
Iron Mt. Pumping Plant.....	103°	54°
Eagle Mt. Pumping Plant.....	101°	54°
Banning .....	92°	41°
Lake Mathews .....	95°	50°

W. W. Aultman, Softening Plant Engineer, recently returned from the American Water Works Convention held in Fresno from October 22 to 25, with additional titles and honors. He had been elected Secretary-Treasurer of the Purification Division of the California Section of the A.W.W.A.

\* \* \*

On October 2, Herman Snideman, Patrolman on the Orange County feeder and reservoir, became the father of a baby boy. The young man weighed in at 6 pounds, 2 ounces.

\* \* \*

Morris Hayes and Richard D. Spearman, who several weeks ago resigned their positions as Assistant Engineer and Inspector, respectively, on the staff of Chief Operation and Maintenance Engineer Diemer, are now employed in the organization of Leeds, Hill, Barnard and Jewett, consulting engineers. They are engaged in national defense work at San Luis Obispo. Hayes had been with the District since May, 1933, and Spearman since April, 1938.



On Nov. 23 she will be Mrs. Fred C. Sigle.



Holding forth in the basement of the M.W.D. Building is John Keigan with duties and responsibilities too numerous to list. His work includes the classification and filing of engineering records and maps, progress and record photographs and drawings, and the various jobs appurtenant thereto.

Word comes that two former aqueducters, now stopping briefly in New York, are preparing in the near future to go "rolling down to Rio." They are Mr. and Mrs. G. E. (Archy) Archibald. Mrs. Archibald formerly was Margaret Clemens who was engaged in secretarial work at the Banning Field Headquarters from February, 1933, to November, 1938. "Archy" was a resident engineer at Division 1 and Construction Superintendent at Eagle Mountain during aqueduct construction days, and was a member of one of the early survey parties. For a number of months he has been doing engineering work in Brazil for the Electric Bond and Share Co. He recently returned to New York where he is meeting Mrs. Archibald, and together they are returning to South America for a three-year job.

\* \* \*

A CCC Camp with several hundred enrollees has been established at Parker Dam. The men are engaged in road building work on the Arizona side of the Colorado River in the vicinity of the dam, and in reservoir improvement work in connection with the recently created National Wildlife Refuge on Lake Havasu.